including for amendment of the training curriculum of pilots in Alliance Air, as per the recommendations of the Committee.

Utilisation of Air Strips as Godown by F.C.I.

†175. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air strips lying idle at different places in the country are being used as godown for foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the non-utilisation of these air strips?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no airstrip belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) that is being used as godown by Food Corporation of India. However, there are large number of non-AAI airports which are lying unutilised because no airlines has indicated plans for operation to/from these airports.

Development of Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam Airports

176. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans to develop the Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam Airports during the current year; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken for better and quicker passenger facilitation in the airport for satisfaction of customer?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Improvement of passenger facilities is a continuous process keeping in view demand and availability of resources. The details of plans approved for development works of Hyderabad airport during the current year are as follows:—

Strengthening and extension of existing runway from 9080 ft. to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

10600 ft. and associated facilities: construction of culvert over the Nallah and strengthening of existing culverts: Trans-installation of Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) and approach lights: installation of additional lights on extended portion of runway and strengthening of existing apron and taxiway to cater to wide bodied Jet Aircraft. It has been proposed to construct a new runway of dimension 10,000 ft. × 150 ft. suitable for operation of Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) Category of aircraft at Visakhapatnam airport. There are also proposals for construction of new apron, link taxiways etc., installation of Navigational aids and Ground Lighting Facilities for all weather operation, provision of boundary wall, perimeter road, sub-fire station, approach road etc. and construction of a new integrated terminal building to handle domestic as well as international passengers.

Amendments in Rules Governing Tobacco Board

177. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the rules, regulations etc. pertaining to Tobacco Board in view of prohibition of smoking and sale of bidi, cigarettes and other tobacco products, and

(b) what will be the future role of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Tobacco Act, 1975 and the Tobacco Board Rules, which govern the functioning and role of the Tobacco Board, primarily provide a framework for regulating the production, curing and marketing of FCV tobacco in particular. On the other hand, the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 tabled in Parliament by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on March 7, 2001, provides for discouraging the use of tobacco and its products through measures like ban on smoking in public places, restrictions on sale of tobacco products to minors and ban on advertisement of